

Hastings Park Conservancy
ParkWatch in Hastings Park
November 19, 2008

ParkWatch in Hastings Park



A Park of Concrete, Asphalt and Commercial Enterprise

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 19, 2008
ParkWatch Observers: Armin Strohschein & Georgina Nicholson
Weather Conditions: Sunny and warm, a beautiful weather day

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Area	Observations / Remarks
<p><i>Hastings Park, West</i> Structures</p>	
	<p>Marked crosswalk needed linking Callister Park and Coliseum across Renfrew Street. Handicapped access is here but no marked crosswalk.</p>
<p>As previously reported, marked crosswalk needed linking Triumph Street and the Italian Gardens</p>	
	<p>Old Roller land building was constructed as a make work project for the unemployed in 1930s. Should be available for community events and activities, not "for-profit" movie shoots and clothing sales for which the community sees no benefits.</p>
<p>How about a farmer's market in here year round?</p>	

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Ears broken off by vandals, further damaged by PNE "maintenance" that allowed the ears to be ground off.

When is the damage going to be fixed?



Expanses of concrete and asphalt between the Sanctuary and the Italian Gardens provide no green space linkage what so ever. View west to the Italian Gardens. Pedestrian have to be very caution with unexpected speeding cars traveling anywhere on paved areas. No posted speed limits and certainly no enforcement by PNE.



View east to the Sanctuary.

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Barns are occupying unused, empty space.



Wildlife

No birds or other wildlife observed or heard during visit.

Vegetation

None, other than trees planted many years ago that have to survive in layer of asphalt



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Vistas



Best views in the park are wasted by parking lots and asphalt.



Hastings Park, North

Structures



Above, recently installed signage at least has the name "Hastings Park" but the signage plan was halted at the Key Stakeholders Group so these signs are being installed prior to council's approval of the plan. When is the sign at Renfrew and Hastings going to be changed to say "Hastings Park"?



More large expanses of asphalt with a dot of a few trees, left and below.

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The stairs that go nowhere.



And more asphalt.



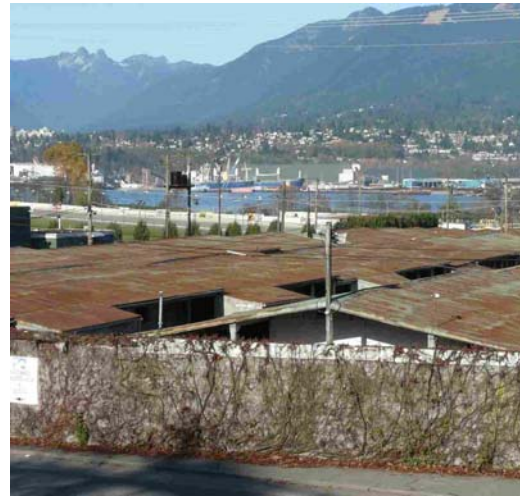
The racetrack has a useful announcement board for horse owners, trainers and employees. This is exactly the type of structure that the Conservancy has been asking for in Hastings Park, next to the Sanctuary. **When will the community get an announcement board in their park?**

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Many empty stables. Again, best park views an absolute waste.



Corner of parking lot used as a junk storage lot and, one more time, best park views.

Recent structure put up by Racino or PNE.
Traffic observed traveling at excessive speeds on Miller Drive.



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Hastings Park, East



Above area between Playland and Empire Bowl strewn with garbage.



More asphalt between Playland and Empire Bowl.

Graffiti on post.

Graffiti on Hastings Park sign in Empire Bowl, managed by Park Board. Ugly reminder of intrusion of commercial activity in a city park. What other park, other than an east Vancouver park, has to put up with this type of eye sore?



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Pattison sign to be obscured by trees, once again. Can we expect the usual tree mutilation from the Pattison sign company and the PNE?

Although Park Board has announced the removal of the bill boards, no timeline on when removal will occur ~ 1 year or 10 years?



Cut trees and Pattison billboard from a distance. Observe other evergreen trees planted around the same time to the left and right.

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Leeside Tunnel being used by skateboard enthusiasts. A lot of garbage, mainly used spray cans in bushes around tunnel. No wonder there is so much graffiti in Empire Bowl.



Hill east of Empire Bowl a weedy mess. Could ParkPartners help in the badly needed clean up?



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Graffiti on many concrete structures in Empire Bowl.
Some poorly removed as seen in photograph to the
right, other fresh "tags" untouched by Park Board.



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Across McGill



The Trans Canada Trail as it runs through east Vancouver and parking lot #10, controlled by the PNE. Pathetic, garbage-strewn wasteland. Many other sections of the Trans Canada Trail are proud community focal points. Not this section. During the PNE the sidewalk was blocked with parked cars making trail unusable by pedestrians.



Below, north end of Hastings Park poorly maintained by racetrack and PNE. Always lot of graffiti and weeds on major city artery that is an entrance to and exit from Vancouver.

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Eagles in cottonwood trees at north end of racetrack on McGill Street.

Other Parts of Hastings Park

Maybe a 175 patrons in the 600-slot casino.

Burnaby Casino reported to be very busy in spite of market and economic downturn.

Advertisement in recent Vancouver Courier finally telling patrons to use gate 9 **BUT** big red sign still advertises entry from Renfrew Street, casino shuttle uses entry from Renfrew Street and TV advertises entry from Renfrew Street. **No entry from Renfrew Street needs to be enforced.**